applicable. Further amounts of claims would go towards liquidation of rupee loan of companies, where applicable. Amount of claims in case of companies who have no outstanding borrowing or whose borrowings are less than claim amounts would go to respective exporters. RBI will issue bonds, as an agent of Govt. of India, in favour of EXIM bank/commercial banks towards unadjusted loan liabilities of project exporters and in favour of project exporters who have excess receivables over borrowing. Government would also settle claims under the counter guarantees issued to bank on behalf of public sector construction companies.

Implementing PDS and anti-hoarding drive

*386. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has recently given direction to implement PDS and anti-hoarding drive in the country effectively;

(b) if so, whether the directives of the Central Government are ignored by the State Governments; and

(c) the mechanism Government propose to evolve for enforcing anti-hoarding drive throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Prime Minister emphasises from time to time efficient implementation.

(b) and (c) The operational responsibility for implementing the Public Distribution System (PDS) is that of the State Governments and Union Territory (UT) Administrations. State Governments and UT Administrations have been delegated powers under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, for taking action against unscrupulous elements indulging in hoarding of essential commodities and other violations of the provisions and Control Orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Implementation of the PDS and enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act are reviewed from time to time with the State Governments. It is not correct to say that all State Governments ignore the advice of the Central Government. Many State Governments are reporting action taken under the Essential Commodities Act to the Central Government periodically.

Central Government does not have any separate machinery for enforcement of the provisions of Essential Commodities Act. Officers and staff of the Food and Civil Supplies Departments in the State Governments and UT Administrations undertake inspections and raids as part of their functions to enforce provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and Control Orders issued thereunder. State Governments/UT Administrations are advised to undertake special drives for anti-hoarding whenever it is felt that availability and prices of any essential commodity are adversely affected due to speculative hoarding by unscrupulous elements.

Central Government advises the State Governments/UT Administrations in this regard from time to time through letters and through meetings to review the enforcement of the provisions of Essential Commodities Act.